

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MOSCOW 09047 012045Z

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-15

SAJ-01 MBFR-03 ACDA-19 OMB-01 NIC-01 RSR-01 EB-11

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P R 311012Z JUL 73 ZDK

FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 0784

INFO AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 9047

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR EGEN UR

SUBJECT: POSSIBLE EEC/CEMA CONTACTS

REF: A. EC BRUSSELS 4290 B. STATE 148002

1. SUMMARY: KOSYGIN RAISED EEC/CEMA CONTACTS WITH THORN AND CLAIMED QUESTION HAD ALREADY BEEN RAISED IN HELSINKI BY GROMYKO. ROMANIANS ASSERT THAT SOVIETS LACK AUTHORITY TO MAKE APPROACH BECAUSE PRAGUE CEMA MEETING DID NOT AS SOVIETS CLAIM TAKE DECISION ON SEEKING CONTACTS. END SUMMARY

2. AFP CORRESPONDENT (WHO WAS PRESENT AT THORN BRIEFING) AND UK POLITICAL COUNSELOR HAVE CONFIRMED TO US THE BASIC FACTS OF KOSYGIN'S APPROACH AS REPORTED BY PRESS (REF A), INCLUDING KOSYGIN REFERENCE TO PRAGUE DECISION TO SEEK CONTACTS. GROMYKO ALSO RAISED THE SUBJECT WITH THORN. ADDITIONAL ASPECT IS THAT SOVIETS EXPECTED THORN TO BE INFORMED ABOUT SOVIET PROPOSAL TO ENTER INTO
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PAGE 02 MOSCOW 09047 012045Z

CONTACT, AND EVEN TO BE IN POSITION TO OFFER PRELIMINARY

EC REACTIONS, BECAUSE GROMYKO ALLEGEDLY MADE THE SAME PITCH TO DANISH FONMIN ADDERSEN (IN HIS CAPACITY AS COMMISSION PRESIDENT FOR THE MONTH) DURING FIRST STAGE CSCE IN HELSINKI.

3. THORN WAS NOT AWARE OF THE ALLEGED HELSINKI APPROACH AND THEREFORE RESPONDED WITH VAGUE GENERALITIES ABOUT THE NEED TO CONSULT WITH ALL MEMBERS OF EEC. (THE AFP CORRESPONDENT SAID HE UNDERSTOOD THAT THORN INDICATED THE POLITICAL COMMITTEE WOULD TAKE UP THE QUESTION AT ITS SEPTEMBER MEETING IN COPENHAGEN, BUT UK COUNSELOR SAID HE DID NOT BELIEVE THORN EVEN WENT THAT FAR.)

4. COMMENT: IT SEEMS UNLIKELY THAT ANDERSEN WOULD HAVE FAILED TO PICK UP GROMYKO'S SIGNAL IN HELSINKI IF IT WERE IN FACT GIVEN. IT THUS APPEARS THAT SOVIETS FOR OBSCURE REASONS WISH TO BE ON RECORD AS OF EARLY JULY WITH A DIRECT PROPOSAL FOR CONTACTS FOLLOWING UP EARLIER BREZHNEV HINTS. GUESSING AT SOVIETS MOTIVES IS FURTHER COMPLICATED BY FACT THAT ROMANIANS HERE HAVE FLATLY DENIED (TO THE BRITISH) THAT THE PRAGUE CEMA MEETING AUTHORIZED CEMA SYG FADEYEV TO ESTABLISH CONTACTS WITH EEC. THUS SOVIET APPROACH TO EEC REPRESENTATIVES COULD BE VIEWED AS ATTEMPT TO BY-PASS ROMANIAN OPPOSITION BY ELICITING FORMAL PROPOSAL FROM EEC; BUT IF THAT WERE THE CASE, THORN'S PRESS CONFERENCE EXPOSED THEIR PLOY. ALL OF THIS PRESUMABLY IS ONE OF TOPICS OF DISCUSSION AT MEETING OF CEMA LEADERS CURRENTLY UNDERWAY IN THE CRIMEA. DUBS

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